

The acquisition of the Linnean Herbarium soon discovered to the Botanists of England that many of our native plants had been mistaken, & that the nomenclature of our whole Flora stood in need of revision -- Hence Sir James was led in 1794 to undertake a Latin Flora Britannica which was completed in three volumes in 1804.

This work the Author dedicated to Sir Joseph Banks Bart.

It was reprinted word for word by Dr Römer at ^{Zurich} ~~London~~ — "It is remarkable," says the writer of his obituary in the Philosophical Magazine, "like all his other labours, for accuracy in observing, accuracy in recording, & unusual accuracy in printing: being written in the Latin language the information is condensed into a small compass, while it has the rare advantage of having had every synonym compared with the original author."

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48 52 Sir Robt. Rankland Bart +
To J. V. - RLL

Dear Sir -

Wimpole Street 29. Apr
1800.

I write a few lines to say how much I am gratified by the Flora Britannica, & flattered by your notice of me in it — The descriptions which you have so judiciously added to every plant, lessen the Botanists' labour tenfold, & every little amplification of generic characters (eg in the Umbelliferous plants) is valuable — The new specific descriptions also are most important — eg I used to find gentiana amarula near Netherby, corolla 4 fida — & what ground had I to doubt its being campestris as it had been described in Hudson? — I could observe no other difference, & from not knowing the real campestris, disbelieved there being such a plant, as a distinct species —

Robt. Rankland —

+ Of Thirkleby near York; many years M^d for Thirsk.
This accomplished botanist died early in the month of January 1831, in the 84th year of his age —

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14 " Hudson, Lightfoot & Withering wrote Floras on the system of Linnaeus, but there can be no doubt that Sir James Edward Smith was the most accomplished disciple of this school, & the best expounder of its principles — The Flora Britannica is perhaps the most perfect specimen existing — A work of which it has been said by no mean authority, that it is worth studying, as well for its logical precision as for its botanical information —

Rev^d E. B. Ramsay —